

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 ACDA-07 CU-02
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FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1755
INFO USDOC, WASHINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CSCE, EEWT,PINS, CZ
SUBJECT: EMBASSY SUPPORTS IMPORTATION OF US CZECH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER

1. SUMMARY: FOR FIRST TIME, EMBASSY HAS RAISED WITH MFA THE REFUSAL OF OTHER GOC ENTITIES TO ALLOW IMPORTATION OF HOSPODAR, CZECH-LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN US . NO SPECIFIC REASON FOR EARLIER REFUSALS GIVEN. THIS CONFLICTS WITH CSCE FINAL ACT. CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST NOTED. MFA RESPONSE WAS CAUTIOUS, BUT OFFICIAL WILL LOOK INTO MATTER. COMMENT: EMBASSY REALISTICALLY DOES NOT EXPECT ANY BETTER RESULTS FROM THIS REPRESENTATION THAN FROM EARLIER APPROACHES. HOWEVER, EMBASSY WANTS TO DOCUMENT A GLARING EXAMPLE OF GOC'S FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT CSCE BASKET III. AMBASSADOR WILL WRITE INTERESTED CONGRESSMAN ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS .
END SUMMARY.

2. DURING DECEMBER 29 CALL ON ZANTOVSKY, DIRECTOR OF MFA'S SIXTH DEPARTMENT, DCM RAISED FOR FIRST TIME WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY THE DIFFICULTIES EMBASSY HAS HAD REGARDING THE IMPORTATION INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA OF HOSPODAR, CZECH-LANGUAGE BI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED IN WEST, TEXAS. DCM EXPLAINED THAT, AT REQUEST OF HOSPODAR PUBLICHER (CZECHOSLOVAK PUBLISHING CO., INC.) AND
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OF CONGRESSMAN W.R. POAGE OF TEXAS, EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE DISCUSSED THIS MATTTTER DURING RECENT MONTHS WITH OFFICIAL OF POSTAL NEWS SERVICE, MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND ARTIA, THE FOREIGN TRADE CORPORATION WHICH IMPORTS PUBLICATIONS. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD IMPORTATIO
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IS NOT POSSIBLE, ALTHOUGH NO SPECIFIC REASONS HAVE BEEN GIVEN. THIS CONFLICTS, IN OUR VIEW, WITH CSCE FINAL ACT, SINCE HOSPODAR

WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT MEDIUM FOR FOSTERING MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CZECHOSLOVAKS AND AMERICANS. DCM STRESSED THAT HOSPODAR IS NOT A POLEMICAL, POLITICALLY-ORIENTED PUBLICATION BUT RATHER A NEWSPAPER WHICH SEEKS TO PRESERVE CULTURE AND TRADITIONS OF CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNITY IN U.S. HE ASKED ZANTOVSKY FOR MFA'S ASSISTANCE IN RESOLVING THIS PROBLEM AND HANDED HIM LETTER COVERING ABOVE POINTS. DCM ALSO LEFT SAMPLE COPIES OF HOSPODAR WITH ZANTOVSKY

3. ZANTOVSKY REPLIED CAUTIOUSLY. HE NOTED THAT SOME PUBLICATIONS PRINTED IN THE WEST BY EAST EUROPEAN EMIGRES ARE "NOT FLATTERING" TO GOC AND OTHER COMMUNIST REGIMES. GOC WILL KEEP SUCH PERIODICALS OUT AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE. HOWEVER, ZANTOVSKY SAID HE WOULD TAKE DCM'S REPRESENTATION INTO CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSS OUR REQUEST WITH APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES.

4. COMMENT: SINCE EMBASSY FIRST BEGAN PRESSING LOCAL OFFICIALS LAST APRIL TO ALLOW HOSPODAR IMPORTATION, WE HAVE UNFORTUNATELY GOTTEN TREATMENT WE EXPECTED, NAMELY THE BRUSHOFF FOLLOWED BY THE RUN-AROUND CULMINATING IN A VAGUELY REASONED TURN-DOWN. WE HAVE PURSUED THIS MATTER MORE OUT OF A DESIRE TO DOCUMENT A GLARING EXAMPLE OF GOC'S FAILURE TO IMPLEMENT CSCE'S BASKET III THAN OUT OF ANY EXPECTATION THAT WE COULD REVERSE OFFICIAL ATTITUDES TOWARD HOSPODAR. WE ARE NO MORE OPTIMISTIC THAT OUR REPRESENTATION TO MFA WILL ACHIEVE SUCCESS THAN WE WERE IN PREVIOUS APPROACHES, BUT WE INTEND TO CONTINUE HOLDING GOC'S FEET TO THE FIRE IN THIS CASE. MEANWHILE, AMBASSADOR WILL WRITE CONGRESSMAN POAGE ABOUT RESULTS TO DATE, AND E/C COUNSELOR WILL WRITE SIMILAR LETTER TO PUBLISHER.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PRAGUE00001
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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